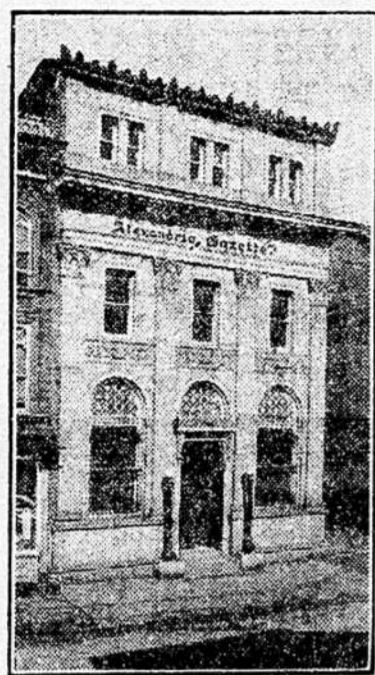


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SHOULD BE KILLED.

It is gratifying to see that the shameless Sherwood pension bill, which to its discredit a Democratic majority allowed to pass the house, will be vigorously opposed in the senate, as we confidently expected it would be. Senator Martin, the leader of the Democrats, will, of course, oppose it with all his skill in parliamentary strategy, and Senator Swanson is expected to speak against it. The Virginians in the house to a man, praise be, voted against this abomination. We, of course, do not include Mr. Slomp. He, as was to be expected, voted for it.

Commissioner Fisher's report, in the hands of the president, shows that should this measure pass, the magnitude of the raid on the treasury will probably surpass our worst fears. An annual outlay of \$75,000,000, according to the commissioner, will be necessary to meet the demands of the bill. This sum will be added to the annual expenditures of (about) \$160,000,000, making a stupendous total of \$235,000,000 annually expended in pensions nearly fifty years after the close of the war.

If a halt is ever to be called in this looting of the Federal treasury and debauching of the Federal electorate, it is about time that it be done.

The senate may save us from this latest pension outrage, but if it does not, we trust the president will have the courage and force of character to veto it.

PAYS UP AT NEW YEAR'S.

Mr. Clarence Poe, who went to China last year, found out that the Chinaman has a rule to settle every debt at New Year's, and it doesn't matter what sacrifices he must make; he gets square with the world and starts the twelvemonth with a clean sheet, a clear conscience and a smile—even if he has only rice enough left to last the family a week and mighty little clothing except his pigtail.

We have a notion that the Chinese are heathen and ignorant, but the more we learn about them the more we find that there is much we can learn from the Chinese. It is a bad habit for one people to think they know it all. The Greeks called all the world outside of Greece "the barbarians" and later the Romans did likewise. We need to learn that there is much that China can teach America, and if we can learn and practice its custom of paying up everything and starting the new year with a clean sheet it will be one of the most valuable lessons that can be imparted. If put into practice, it would make the wheels of commerce revolve with more ease and be a blessing all round. Indifference to obligations and delay in paying bills are among the most annoying things that trouble business men.

THE TARIFF DELAY COMMISSION

The Tariff Board has failed to justify its own existence. After a year of labor, its report leaves us just where we were when the Underwood committee began its work last January. The principal thing it has

accomplished is delay. Revision of the tariff by commission appears to be another iridescent dream.

The Constitution intrusts the House of Representatives with the framing of revenue legislation, and far as we have gone astray in the mazes of "protection," the only constitutional warrant for levying a tariff is to raise revenue. Framing tariff bills is a function of the House, and the House is right in refusing to surrender its prerogatives to any commission.

The Tait board does not point out just what reductions are necessary to put the wool and woollens tariff on an equitable basis. The one duty proposed for the board is the gathering of accurate information. Tons of such statistics and reports were available when Payne and Aldrich undertook the revision of the Dingley bill. But then this information that is now considered so valuable was calmly suppressed. Insurgents and Democrats had to fight for weeks to get even a handful of the documents.

Republicans hooted at the idea of a tariff board when they came to revise the schedules. They take refuge behind it now because they hope it will hamper the Democrats. Doubtless the Democrats will be denounced for its abolition, but they can not expect commendation from their opponents or aid from those who are using every effort to prevent or delay any reduction in the tariff.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Riots in Alexandria.

Please give data of riots that occurred here.

Soldier.

There were two notable riots in Alexandria during a space of about seven years. The most serious was on Christmas day, 1865. The Alexandrians who had been in the Southern army had returned to their homes during the early summer in an unconstructed condition, although peaceably inclined if let alone. The city was under military rule, which fact caused some negroes to assert themselves. Early on Christmas morning, before the stars were out of the sky, a number of the race with drums and fifes paraded the streets, discoursing "John Brown's Body" and marching on its way. "Sherman's March Through Georgia" and other tunes liable to excite Southern ire. Several white women were later in the day jostled by insolent negroes on the streets. Early in the afternoon the Alexandrians, having in the meantime made "social calls," were ready for trouble, and they began an immediate war on negroes, and to use a familiar saying, struck a head wherever seen. King street was the theatre of most of the disorder. One negro was killed and a number seriously injured before the military succeeded in checking the rioters. A number of arrests followed and several Alexandrians were sent to Fort Warren for the alleged part they took in the disorder. General H. H. Wells, who had been mil-

itary governor of the city, voluntarily acted as counsel for the defendants and without remuneration.

The second riot was precipitated by negroes in May, 1872. The trouble took place on a Sunday afternoon. A negro, a former resident of this city, had died in Washington. The deceased was an Odd Fellow and it seemed as if all the negroes in Washington came here to witness the sepulture.

They soon realized that they were in the majority and as is usual with many of this race on such occasions, began to look for trouble. On their way back to the ferryboat they rendered it dangerous for white people who got in their way. Disorders soon followed and the police were summoned, but the few officers of the law could do nothing with such a mob. The police, however, were determined, and they being reinforced by civilians, the eastern end of the principal street was soon the scene of a riot.

The negroes finally made their way on the ferry boat, and the ring-leaders defied the authorities to bring them ashore. The late Hugh Latham, who was mayor of the city at the time, with several officers, went on board the steamer and brought the offenders ashore. They were locked up and brought before the Police Court in old Liberty Hall the following morning when the full penalty of the law was imposed. Council subsequently passed an ordinance forbidding organizations to come to this city with a band of music.

Russian and French Warships.

Did a Russian war ship ever enter this port? A. B. C.

A French man-of-war did visit this port during the civil war. The Russian fleet was here in 1865. The ships lay a short distance above Alexandria, and the officers and men came here daily. They purchased their bread, vegetables, etc., in Alexandria. So far as the actual object of that fleet coming to these waters is concerned, but few Russians could give correct explanations of the movement at present. The commander of the fleet had sealed orders, and he was as much in the dark as anyone else. Long after the civil war closed a Russian Diplomat, in discussing the incident referred to the fact that the fleet was under sealed orders and suggested that they would have proven of great interest to the United States had England and France recognized the Southern Confederacy. During the four years conflict Russia manifested friendship towards the Federal government. At that time Russia owned Alaska, and it has been surmised that had she taken a hand in the conflict between the north and the south, and the foreign nations which it was supposed were about to embark in the internal conflict on this side of the Atlantic, that Russia, after the termination of hostilities would have demanded certain concessions on the American side of the Pacific for the services. At the close of the war Russia sold Alaska to the United States.

URUGUAY'S MINISTER TO AMERICA



Uruguay has a new diplomatic representative at Washington in the person of Senor Don Carlos Maria de Pena, minister plenipotentiary from that South American republic. He will be a prominent figure in social circles at the capital.

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Send your jug.
Five Crown Figs, pound 15c.
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